1414.b.29

1414.b.29

NARRATIVE

OF THE

Life and Transactions

OF

ROBERT THOMPSON,

Who was EXECUTED at CARLISLE,

On Saturday the 17th Day of September, 1791,

For the CRIME of HORSE-STEALING.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

His DEFENCE before the JUDGE;

AND

His Behaviour in Goal, and at the Place of Execution.

NEWCASTLE:

PRINTED IN THE YEAR 1791.

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE

Life and Tranſactions

OF

ROBERT THOMPSON.

ROBERT THOMPSON, the ſubject of this Narrative, was born at Rothbury, in the pariſh of Rothbury, in the county of Northumberland, in the year 1737, of indigent but induſtrious parents, who beſtowed on him a liberal education, and brought him up in the ways of Chriſtianity. As he grew in years ſo he grew in vice, and ſtrayed from the paths of virtue. He became acquainted with a woman, born in the ſame pariſh with himſelf, whom he married; but his cruel behaviour to her, rendered her life very unhappy, he giving himſelf up to every diſorderly and wicked practice, frequently the company of lewd women, and profaning the Sabbath-day. He fell in with a woman at Newcaſtle upon Tyne, which was the cauſe of many of his troubles in life, which he much lamented. He then began to ſell mint waters, with which he made it his ſtudy not only to defraud the inhabitants of the county of Northumberland, but the country at large.

He looked upon himſelf with abhorrence to think of the numerous crimes he had committed, which are as follow, *viz.* He firſt began to ſteal coals from Shaſwood coal-hill, which practice he carried on a long time undiſcovered; he carried them on aſſes to Tweedmouth, near Berwick, and there ſold them.

He next went to Hornclough, near Berwick upon Tweed, and ſtole from —— Alder, Eſq; five ſocks and five coulters, and carried them to his dwelling-houſe, at that time in Tweedmouth; but a reward of five guineas being offered for the diſcovery of the offender, he thought it moſt prudent to take them back, which he did, and threw them into the river Tweed, ſo that they might be found again, and that the ſuſpicion might fall on ſome perſon in the neighbourhood; this he did in company with a perſon who is known by the name of *Hunting Joe*, reſiding in Tweedmouth. At another time he went to Mr Alder's houſe at Hornclough, on pretence of ſelling mint waters, and ſtole two ſilver ſpoons, and ſold them to a Mr Clark, ſilver-ſmith in Berwick, for fifteen ſhillings.

At another time, he, and the ſaid *Hunting Joe*, went to Mr Alder's aforeſaid, and ſtole two ſheep; and again, he, in company with *Hunting Joe*, ſtole two ſheep from John Anderſon of Middle Ord, nigh Berwick; but after they had ſlaughtered them, they had not an opportunity of carrying them away, but went the night following, and finding them gone, he had a ſuſ-

a ſuſpicion of his comrade deceiving him, by carrying them away unknown to him, for which he declined having any farther connection with him.

After that, he took on with one Dryden, a beſom-maker; they went to the fiſhery in Tweed, in the night, and ſtole ſalmon from the fiſhermen, and ſold them in Berwick. From thence, in company with one Fenwick, they went to Eyemouth, and there broke into the ſalt warehouſe of Mrs Atchinſon, and ſtole from thence a large quantity of ſalt, and carried it in a boat round to Berwick, and ſold it to the coopers of that place.

After that, he, along with one Thomas Jeffery, went to the houſe of Thomas Steel, of Norham Moor, and from thence ſtole two ſaddles; they then went to the houſe of John Richardſon, in Hornclough, and there ſtole a horſe, and took him to Muſſelburgh and ſold him for twelve guineas. In the courſe of about three months, the ſaid Mr Richardſon got information of his horſe having been ſold at Muſſelburgh. Soon after Thomas Jeffery was taken upon ſuſpicion, and carried before —— Ord, Eſq; of Longridge; Mr Richardſon having got his horſe again, and Jeffery paying the purchaſer his money, the matter was made up.

After all this, he took up with one Clarke, a beſom-maker, and they in company ſtole three Jack aſſes from Spital Moor, and drove them to Wooler, and ſold them to a man who goes

by the name of the *Rabbit* in Dorrington, for fifteen ſhillings each. From thence they went to the houſe of Lady Errol, at Eatell, in Northumberland, on pretence, of ſelling mint waters, in order to meet with ſomething that they could make prey of; in the road they found too milk aſſes, which they ſtole, and drove them to Norham, and ſold one of them to one Mary Marſhall, who lodges travelling people, the other they drove to Hornclough, and ſold it to one William Dun, a blind fiddler.

He then went into the Merce in Scotland near Dunce, he there met on the road with one Jean Govan, who told him that ſhe had been at Dunce buying butter, he walked with her about a mile, being ſcarce of money, he ſtopped her, and took from her all the butter, and about ten ſhillings of ſilver; the butter he ſold to a brewer at Clock Mill for eleven ſhillings. From there he went to Allen Bank, and broke into the mill of Robert Young of that place, and there ſtole a quantity of flour and pearl barley; he carried it to Berwick, and ſold it to one Lochead, an inn-keeper there. Then Clarke and him went to Lammerton and ſtole four ſheep, which they carried home to his wife and family. He then finding his character becoming ſo notorious, he was obliged to leave Tweedmouth. He removed to Morpeth, where he took a houſe, and in about three months he ſent for his family; having purchaſed three aſſes, he began to carry coals to Morpeth, by which employment he made a tolera-

ble

ble living for ſome time; but being tired of this way of life, he left his family and went to Newcaſtle, and begun diſtilling mint waters again; being in company with a clock-maker, who told him if he would inſtruct him in the method of making mint waters, he would learn him how to coin money. The temptation was too great for him to withſtand—as he always wiſhed to get money with little trouble he readily agreed to his propoſal; receiving the neceſſary inſtructions, he immediately fell to work and coloured three plain halfpence, and ſoon paſſed them for ſhillings. The clock-maker having been guilty of the ſame practice, and the public ſuſpecting him, he wanted to extricate himſelf from the guilt, for which purpoſe he immediately went out and brought in a conſtable, who ſeized and carried him before a magiſtrate, who committed him to goal: he was tried at the enſuing aſſizes, where he was capitally convicted of making and vending bad money, for which he received ſentence of death; he lay under that ſentence for twelve months, he then received his Majeſty's pardon. His character being then too well known at Morpeth, he could not think of ſtaying any longer there; he ſet off for the ſouth of England, but got no farther than Hull, in Yorkſhire; there he went into the ſhop of one John Addiſon, out of which he ſtole a quantity of ſilk handkerchiefs, and got off undiſcovered; he went into the country and ſold them. On returning to Hull, he ſlept one night at Beverley

along

along with a perſon unknown to him, and before that he awoke in the morning, he ſtole out of his pocket two half guineas and ſome ſilver, all that he had; he went off early in the morning undiſcovered, and got within a mile of Hull, when two men came up and ſeized him as their priſoner; he was taken back to Beverley, and, affraid of being committed to goal, he made the matter up with the man, by returning him his money, and ſatisfying the people that purſued him.

He then went to Hull, where he continued ſome time. The next depredation he committed, was, he went to the butchers market on pretence of buying ſome meat, it being in the evening, he ſtole a bullock's head. Finding that he could not carry on his villainous practices in England any longer with ſucceſs, he then put on a reſolution to go once more to Scotland; accordingly he did, and took his ſon Thomas along with him: they croſſed the water of Forth, and travelled through the Shire of Fife and Angus, defrauding every one that lay in their power. They went to Perthſhire, where they ſtole a black mare and ſold her at Dundee fair for ten guineas. Then they went to a place called Kilbeggie, where there was a great diſtillery carried on by a Mr Steen, from him they bought upwards of twenty pounds worthy of whiſky, part they paid ready money, and got credit for the remainder; they got it ſhipped for Leith, where they ſold it, never intending to return to pay what was due.

They

They went to Dunbar, and there he fell in with a bad woman, with whom he cohabited for ſome time; ſhe having no ready money, he perſuaded her to ſell her cloaths and furniture and go with him to Newcaſtle; but as ſoon as he got all ſhe had, he left her entirely deſtitute, though ſhe had ſupported him and his ſon during the winter. He then went to Newcaſtle, and had a thought of returning from his wicked ways; which thought he did not long retain, as he never inclined to work for his bread.

He and his two ſons, George and Thomas, went to Sunderland, and engaged in the coal heaving buſineſs, but finding they got not money ſo faſt as they could wiſh, on account of the wind being a long time contrary for ſhips ſailing to London; on their ſailing, depended moſtly the ſubſiſtance of the inhabitants of Sunderland. He and his two ſons being reduced to a ſtate of poverty; one night laying on his bed he thought on a ſcheme that would raiſe them ſome money, which was, to go to Durham and get his two ſons inliſted with a recruiting party that was there; his ſon Thomas was two young, but they inliſted his ſon George, for which he received half-a-guinea from the ſergeant for taking him, and George three guineas bounty. They all ſtayed at Durham a few days, and his ſon Thomas and him went off together, leaving George behind. Soon after George left the party, and defraud-

ed

ed the king and his officers of the bounty, and fell to his villainous practices as formerly.

On their leaving Durham, he and his ſon Thomas went to Daraſs Hall, in Northumberland, about eight miles from Newcaſtle, and there ſtole a bay horſe, the property of Nathaniel Clark, and took him to Longtown in Cumberland, and ſold him for eight pounds: Returning to Northumberland, they ſtole two ſaddles, which they carried to Brampton: He ſtaid there all night, and his ſon Thomas went and brought two horſes, which they ſet off with to Lancaſter, and there ſold them for fifteen pounds each. From thence they returned to Hawick, in Scotland, where they fell in with James Trotter, who went with them to the Merce, and ſtole three bullocks, which they ſold in Dunce, to Mr Taylor, a butcher. Then his ſon Thomas left him.

James Trotter and him went to Greenlaw, and in the houſe of Mrs Buchan, they fell in with a man, who they underſtood had a good deal of money about him; they called for liquor, with an intent to make him intoxicated, in order to rob him of his property, which they accompliſhed; but ſtaying rather too long, the man began to come a little to himſelf again, and on miſſing his money, he immediately charged them with it; he calling for a conſtable they were ſecured, and, on examination, the purſe being found on James Trotter, they were both committed to goal for a further hearing. His two ſons, in the courſe of a week, came

came to him, he ſent them to Stitchell to the man to get the matter made up; ſo, when they were brought before the ſheriff, no evidence appearing againſt them, they were diſmiſſed, with an order to leave the country.

They took the coach at Greenlaw for Edinburgh, and there James Trotter and him broke a carrier's waggon, from which they ſtole a large quantity of cloth, and ſold part of it to one Michael Henderſon, in the Graſs Market. They went from there to Dalkeith, where they ſtaid about nine weeks, and ſpent moſt part of what money they had, in the houſe of James Gibb, inn-keeper. From that they went to Kelſo, and broke into the ſhop of Mrs Frazer, and ſtole a large quantity of ribbons and ſome broad-cloth, which they ſent to Newcaſtle by Mr Howie's waggon. They then went to Millfield, and ſtaid there two days, in order to give the goods time to be at Newcaſtle. On their road to Newcaſtle, going paſt Wooler, they ſaw a large waſhing of cloaths by the river ſide, they thought it would not be difficult to ſteal them; ſo they returned to Wooler, and ſtaid at the Black Bull until it was dark; they then ſet off and completed their deſign. they went that night up a Fell weſt of Wooler, and there dried the clothes next day: in the evening they brought them down to Wooler, and there ſold them to one Thompſon, a clogger, for four pounds. They ſet off for Newcaſtle, in order to ſell the cloth ſent by Howie's waggon, but when they came there,

there, they found themſelves diſappointed, for by ſome means Mr Howie's clerk had been informed that it belonged to a Mr Jordan in Edinburgh, which cauſed it to be ſtopped; they knowing it not to be his, thought there would be no fear of getting it; but by a public advertiſement, it appeared to be the property of Mrs Frazer of Kelſo: So then they were entirely diſappointed of that booty.

He then thought of altering his courſe of life, and went to Shiremoor, and there wrought in a coal-pit ſixteen months, giving no offence to any perſon, but did much profane the Sabbath-day, by drinking and frequenting the company of lewd women. His wife went to ſee him, but he gave her a very unkind reception; ſhe, in return for his unkind treatment, expoſed all his former tranſactions, which obliged him to leave that place. He then went to South Shields, where he continued about a month, but getting into company with one Buſhby, a man of an infamous character, they, in company, committed many depredations which are too tedious to enumerate. Buſhby was an old offender, and his character ſo bad, he thought proper to leave his company. He then went to Sir Hedworth Williamſon's ſteward at Sunderland, and there laboured for ſome weeks; but he tiring of work again, committed a theft at Mr. Brunton's lime kilns, on board the ſloop Nancy, belonging to Arbroath; he ſtole her cadge anchor, and ſold it in Biſhopwearmouth for fifteen

ſifteen ſhillings: he being the only ſuſpected perſon, was obliged to leave that place. He then went back to North Shields, where he was employed by a gardener, and received eight ſhillings per week; the work being hard, he could not ſtand it, on account of a bad ſtate of health; he was ſeized with a nervous fever, which confined him for two months; he recovered his health, and went home to his family at Morpeth, where he continued all the winter; in the ſpring he began to think of ſome buſineſs that he might get a living by without working hard, ſo he went into Lancaſhire, in order to get loch-leeches, he got a many, but they all died on his journey home. On his road to Newcaſtle he ſtole a bay mare from one Herdſmen, at the Herds-houſe, a little above the Skinner-burn, near Newcaſtle; he took her to Edinburgh, and there ſold her, and ſpent all the money; he was then at a loſs what to do.

There being a fair at Mid-Calder, he went to ſee if he could meet with any thing; at night he ſtole a galloway, and ſold it the ſame evening to one David Burnie, inn-keeper in Linlithgow. Next day there being a fair at Dalkeith, he made the beſt of his way to that place: he went through the market, but finding nothing to ſuit his purpoſe, he put off until night. In the courſe of the day he got acquainted with a man from Bigger, who, he underſtood, wanted to exchange an old horſe for a young one, with one of his neighbours;

he was desired to assist him in making the bargain, which was done after dark; he pretended he would try whether the horse was sound or not, by riding it a little way; but he took the opportunity of going off with it. That night he went to Mr Palfrey's at Black Shields, fourteen miles south of Edinburgh, and seven from Dalkeith. Next morning he went to Lauder, and from thence he went to Kelso, and put up at the Cross Keys, where he remained all night; in the morning before he went away, he exchanged his saddle (which was but a very indifferent one) for a real good one. He then went to Wooler and sold the horse to one Vast, a miller in Humbleton mill, and then walked home to Morpeth, where he remained some time.

His son Thomas and one George Bolton, advised him to go along with them, which he unfortunately did, and which brought him to his untimely end; but he declared he was innocent, with reward to stealing the mare and galloways, for which he suffered. His son Thomas and George Bolton came and told him, that they had been looking at some good horses on Kilmouth Moor; they asked him if he would go along with them, and they would take each of them one, which he agreed to; but he made an observation to his son and Bolton, that they had no saddles. They did not take the horses that night; the night following his son Thomas and George Bolton went to a gentleman's stable, in Northumberland, and broke

broke it open, and there ſtole three ſaddles; they carried them to the road they meant to come with the horſes, and there hid them: four nights after, George Bolton and Thomas came to him again, and ſaid, if he would go forward to where the ſaddles were, and get them ready, they would go and bring the black mare and two galloways, to which he agreed. He went accordingly to get the ſaddles ready, and they went for the horſes, and ſoon returned with them. Bolton put a ſaddle on one of the galloways, his ſon put one on the other, and he ſaddled the black mare; they all mounted and rode for Carliſle, in order to diſpoſe of them to a horſe dealer there, who had bought ſeveral horſes from them before, and had agreed to take all they got. They continued their journey till they came to Chollerford-bridge, where they met with the *dealer* from Carliſle, being wrote to for that purpoſe; he ſaid he did not know what to do to pay them, as they had brought a greater ſtock and better cattle than he expected; he ſaid they muſt go on to Carliſle with him, and he would pay for them agreeable to their bargain: they deſired the ſaid horſe dealer to take them to Carliſle himſelf, but he would not, on account of them all having ſaddles, and the neighbours might take notice of them; he told them they might take them to an inn-keeper near Carliſle, where he directed them, and there he would pay them according to agreement. He went away, and they ſoon followed on the ſame

road, and went to the houſe appointed, where the *dealer* was ready to receive them; the price of the horſes was agreed upon, which was eighteen pounds, but the *dealer* had only eight guineas, and promiſed the remainder ſhould be paid in a month, to which they objected, and ſaid, it was hard on them to run the riſk of their lives for the benefit of others, to which he replyed that his life was in as great danger as theirs; for if they ſhould be found in his poſſeſſion, he might be brought into the ſnare for them all: So he, his ſon Thomas, and Bolton went out, and conſulted with each other; they thought that if they did not let him have them, he might make a diſcovery of them, and all former affairs, which would put an entire ſtop to their future dealings. They returned to the houſe, and ſaid, that he ſhould have them, on paying the money agreed on; he aſked them where they brought them from, as it was neceſſary he ſhould know, that he might not ſell them to any in that country, they told him. He aſked them where they had got the ſaddles, they likewiſe told him, and that there was a reward of ten guineas offered to diſcover the perſon or perſons who had ſtole them; they requeſted him not to ſell them to any perſon that would take them into Northumberland, as they might there be known again; he replied, that he had a friend in the neighbourhood, who would put freſh buttons on them, and alter them ſo that they would not be known, as he had done many ſuch jobs for him,

him, and he could depend on him. All being agreed on, they drank freely together, wiſhing each other ſucceſs in their buſineſs. His ſon Thomas and Bolton ſet off for Brampton, where they ſtole two horſes; and riding faſt to get out of the way, in caſe of being purſued, one of the horſes tired, and they were obliged to drive him out of the road, and there leave him; Bolton and his ſon Thomas proceeded towards Newcaſtle with the other, and as they went along the road they went into a blackſmith's ſhop to get him ſhod, the ſmith aſked Bolton who he belonged to, he anſwered it was his own; in the mean time a man came into the ſhop, who had purſued them, and told the ſmith that it was a ſtole horſe and begged he would aſſiſt him in detaining the man that had brought him. Bolton then made off, but was cloſe purſued and taken, and committed to Morpeth goal, where he made a full diſcovery of what they had done ſince they were firſt connected together. He and his ſon Thomas conſequently were advertiſed, and he was ſoon taken and brought before the Mayor of Newcaſtle; but proving where he was the night the horſe was ſtole from Brampton, he was diſcharged.

Bolton, not being ſatisfied with ſuffering all himſelf, made another information concerning the black mare and the two galloways; he was again advertiſed, and conſequently apprehended: Soon after his ſon Thomas was likewiſe taken and committed to Durham goal,

from thence they were removed to Newcaſtle, in order to take their trials; but the judge underſtood they had no right to be tried there, and were removed to Carliſle, where they were tried and acquitted. He and his ſon Thomas were again detained on a freſh information reſpecting the above horſes, and were both tried laſt aſſizes; his ſon Thomas was acquitted, he was found guilty, and immediately received ſentence of death.

THE

THE FOLLOWING IS AN

Authentic Copy of his Defence

BEFORE THE JUDGE,

Taken from his own Manuſcript.

May it pleaſe your Lordſhip, Gentlemen, and Jury, with ſubmiſſion.

YOUR moſt humble petitioners does hereby moſt humbly beg pardon, in preſuming to write the following declaration relating your petitioners, trial, which humbly ſheweth the truth and nothing but the truth. That your moſt humble petitioners' *Robert Thompſon* and *Son*, being entire ſtrangers in this county of Cumberland; and alſo, has no friends or relations able to ſupply your petitioners with money, to fee a counſel to ſpeak in the behalf of your petitioners aforeſaid; for which reaſon, your moſt humble petitioners does once more moſt earneſtly beg pardon, to deſire the Chriſtian favour of your Lordſhip, Gentlemen, and Jury, in the name of the great and juſt God, whoſe name your Lordſhip, Gentlemen, and Jury, will certainly regard, and take the following into your moſt ſerious and merciful conſideration, which ſhall be the heads of this my declaration.

The Judge and Gentlemen, which was put in truſt, laſt aſſizes, 1790, for the county of Nortuhumberland, to do juſtice to every man, relating to God and their

their own ſouls' welfare, could not find a Bill of Indictment, according to law, to try or confine your moſt humble petitioners. Moreover, the Judge and Gentlemen in the county aforeſaid, would not, upon no conſideration, grant an order to remove your moſt humble petitioners, into this the county of Cumberland; but Robert Potts, in Morpeth, and his father alſo, who was your moſt humble petitioners' proſecutors did take the full power and authority upon themſelves, which they know of a truth, was againſt God and their own conſcience, and alſo againſt the laws of this kingdom, for them thus to remove your moſt humble petitioners themſelves as aforeſaid, into this the county before-mentioned, to your Lordſhip, Gentlemen, and Jury; for which reaſon as above, it does here moſt plainly appear to the eyes and conſciences of all men who readeth this, that the Judge and Gentlemen, which was in and for the county of Northumberland, would not preſume to defile their hands, in being guilty of ſhedding innocent blood, as what Robert Potts and his father did, in moſt violently rebelling againſt God, for which their conſciences will, at the laſt day witneſs againſt them; becauſe they knowing that with money they have bribed falſe witneſſes: for on the evening of the 17th day of October, 1790, John Robertſon, butcher in Stanwix, came into the goal yard, and informed your humble petitioners, *Robert Thompſon* and *Son*, that the above Robert Potts, did hire the ſaid John Robertſon; and the ſaid Robert Potts did pay to John Robertſon according to agreement, five ſhillings a-day and a guinea and a half, which is commonly named a bribe, and alſo his charges paid by the ſaid Robert Potts, for going to find a black mare. Moreover, Thomas Lamonby and his daughter, and John Foſter's wife and ſervant man, by report, did receive from ſaid Robert Potts a bribe of money to go and give oath before Thomas Forſter, Eſq; on the 11th day of Auguſt, 1790, relating the ſaid black mare, for

which

which I and my ſon are falſly charged. This is the truth and nothing elſe, as I ſhall anſwer to my God and Saviour at the laſt day.

This bribe which Robert Potts did pay to John Robertſon, and all other witneſſes, to ſwear falſely before Thomas Forſter, Eſq; appears moſt plain to be the truth, by reaſon, on Tueſday the 10th of ſaid month, near to nine o'clock in the forenoon, which was after I and my ſon had undergone an examination, that Robert Potts did moſt violently rebel againſt Juſtice, and did bring at that time into the goal yard, Thomas Lamonby and his daughter, and John Foſter's wife and ſervant man; and Robert Potts ſaid unto them, *This is Thompſon and his ſon*, and immediately retired: Moreover, the day following, I and my ſon was ordered to go before Thomas Forſter, Eſq; at which time Robert Potts was there with the ſaid witneſſes, who ſwore moſt falſely and maliciouſly againſt my ſon and me, upon which we were both committed to this goal again. But this I muſt remember, that I ordered Robert Potts to retire out of the houſe, but he ſeemed as if he was diſturbed in his mind; for, as my ſon and me came out of the Juſtice's houſe, he was ſtanding at the door in a thoughtful poſture; at which time he ſpoke to Mr Mullinder, the goaler, but what paſſed I cannot declare; but Mr Mullinder knows, if he will reveal the truth to your Lordſhip, Gentlemen, and Jury. Robert Potts being at that time with the ſaid falſe witneſſes, plainly ſhews, that he was anxious to know whether theſe witneſſes had done according to his agreement with them or not, in ſwearing falſely againſt my ſon and me, ſo that our innocent blood ſhould not eſcape, but be ſhed at this aſſizes, in the middle of this city, before-mentioned to your Lordſhip, Gentlemen and Jury.

Therefore, when your Lordſhip, Gentlemen, and Jury, ſhall be moſt graciouſly pleaſed to order me and my ſon to be brought forth to trial, the Lord, my God my

my moſt Sovereign Maſter, will ſurely enable me with his moſt holy and bleſſed Spirit, to cauſe truth to ſtand up rightly, and not to fall. Therefore, in the firſt place this I muſt remember, that Robert Potts and his father, and all the ſaid falſe witneſſes, has taken the full prerogative and power upon themſelves; becauſe they have cauſed juſtice to ſtand afar off, and truth to fall in the ſtreet, for which equity could not enter: And the Lord ſaw it, and it diſpleaſed him that there was not judgment, Iſa. lix. 14, 15. for this diſpleaſing the Higheſt, which is the great and juſt God, is not doing juſtice; He therefore commands the prophet Jeremiah in chap. xliv. ver. 7. Therefore now thus ſaith the Lord, the God of hoſts, the God of Iſrael; wherefore commit ye this great evil againſt your ſouls: alſo, Jer. ix. 9. Shall I not viſit them for theſe things? ſaith the Lord and ſhall not my ſoul be avenged on ſuch a nation as this? Therefore the Lord, the God of hoſts, ſhall make a conſumption, even determined in the midſt of all the land. What will thoſe falſe ſwearers and all workers of iniquity do in the day of viſitation, which ſhall come from far? To whom will they then flee for help? and where will ſuch leave their glory, Iſa. x. 3. Therefore let this be openly proclaimed in the ears of all thoſe falſe ſwearers, ſo that they may conſider this dreadful day of viſitation.

Let this be a warning from the great and juſt God to all the inhabitants of the whole earth, ſo that all may take care, and do according as what the Judge and Gentleman in the county of Northumberland did laſt aſſizes, 1790; in diſobeying and abhoring all Robert Potts' actions in every reſpect. The Judge and Gentlemen aforeſaid, remembered the command of the great and juſt God, which he commanded to be ſpoke, and openly proclaimed in the ears of all the inhabitants of the whole land, by the mouth of the prophet Micah, chap. vi. ver. 8. To do juſtice, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God.

Therefore

Therefore I moſt humbly beg, that your Lordſhip, and Gentlemen of the Jury, will not look upon me the worſe, for diſcharging my duty in full, from the beginning to the end, relating to God and the welfare of the ſouls of men, that are put in authority, with regard to your humble petitioner and ſon's trial, which are as follow.

I took my journey from my houſe at Morpeth, in the county of Northumberland, on Saturday morning the 4th day of July, 1789, to Stagſhawbank fair, which was on the ſame day, with a black horſe to diſpoſe of; where your Lordſhip's petitioner met with a man, in the ſaid fair, an entire ſtranger to me; he told me he had exchanged a bay mare, not an hour ago, with one John Foſter, whom he ſaw was a horſe dealer, and reſided in the city of Carliſle, in the county of Cumberland; alſo he ſaid, that he believed John Foſter would give as much money for my horſe, as any man in the fair: therefore, by reaſon of the man ſpeaking ſo favourable of John Foſter, it inticed me to go along with him, and I exchanged the ſaid black horſe with John Foſter for a brown mare, the property of the ſaid John Foſter; and John Foſter did promiſe to pay eight pounds to me on the 12th day of Auguſt, 1789, at Newcaſtle, which being in conſideration betwixt the brown mare and the black horſe, ſo that they both ſhould be of an equal value. But to make it plain, in a very ſhort time after, your humble petitioner was moſt grievouſly afflicted by the Almighty God, that righteous one, with a violent diſorder, commonly named the bloody flux; for which reaſon I was not able to go to Carliſle to make any inquiry relating the eight pounds, in which John Foſter ſtood indebted to your humble petitioner.

The 22d day of June, 1790, I met with the ſaid John Foſter, and he told me he could not pay me the eight pounds before the 30th of ſaid month: So, at the day appointed, I went to Mr Hodgſon's, ſign of the ſhip, in the

the city of Carliſle, and called for a quart of ale, and ſent for John Foſter, but his ſervant man came, and ſaid his maſter was not at home, but he expected him home in the evening: Moreover, he deſired that I would go up to Thomas Lamonby's, in the New Town, and there remain until his maſter came home. This being about 12 o'clock of the ſame day, I remained till about two in the afternoon, and then ſet off for the houſe of Thomas Lamonby, along with my Son Thomas, he attending me on account of my late diſorder.

I and my ſon arrived at the ſaid houſe, in the New Town, juſt half an hour paſt two o'clock in the afternoon; at which time, my ſon and me obſerved Thomas Lamonby and George Bolton ſitting drinking in company with a man who had a ſquint in his eye; it being a public houſe, I immediately called for a quart of ale, for me and my ſon by ourſelves: When drinking it, Thomas Lamonby ſaid to me, was the black mare, along with two black galloways, that was now ſtanding in his ſtable, belonging to me. I anſwered and ſaid, that I had neither horſe, mare, galloway, or gelding in the county of Cumberland: I moreover ſaid, that I wondered, as I was an entire ſtranger to him, that he ſhould ſpeak in ſuch a manner to me and my ſon, as he knew that we underſtood nothing at all about any of their affairs. My ſon and me, not having much money to ſpend, paid the quart of ale and retired about three o'clock in the afternoon, to take the air, as I was not in health. About three hours after, my ſon and me returned back to the ſaid houſe, as we had been ordered by John Foſter's ſervant man to remain there, and wait the coming home of his maſter. When your moſt humble petitioners came into the ſaid houſe, the man who ſquinted was gone away, but George Bolton, and Thoms Lamonby was ſtill drinking together; at which time, Thomas Lamonby was telling George Bolton, that he had been at Liverpool laſt week

with his horſe, and he believed his horſe to be one of the beſt trotters within a hundred miles. George Bolton immediately anſwered and ſaid, he had a black mare and two black galloways at preſent in his ſtable, and I will wager a ſhilling that any of them will trot a mile ſooner than your horſe; the wager was agreed upon, but the black mare could neither trot, nor was ſo ſwift as T. Lomonby's horſe; therefore I here ſolemnly declare, that neither me nor my ſon ever ſaw the black mare nor the two black galloways with our eyes before; immediately after, my ſon and me got ſupper and retired to bed, in ſaid houſe.

Thomas Lamonby told George Bolton, that he was going up ſtreet to his father's houſe, to ſleep there that night; but near to 12 o'clock, the ſame night, the ſaid George Bolton, John Foſter, and John Lamonby, came and knocked at the upper chamber window of the houſe of Thomas Lamonby, where John Foſter uſed expreſſions not fit to be made public; on which, Thomas Lamonby immediately put on his cloaths and pened the door to them. In a ſhort time after John Foſter came up ſtairs to me, and deſired me and my ſon to come down ſtairs and drink a glaſs of ale with him. Having eight pounds to receive from him, I readily conſented, and my ſon and me got up and went with him down ſtairs, doing no harm, more leſs thinking any harm relating any man. He ſaid he could not pay me the eight pounds before to-morrow morning. I muſt write this and make it plain to all, that none may defile their conſciences, in doing injuſtice to their own ſouls, by cauſing innocent blood to be ſhed; for which reaſon, your Lordſhip, Gentlemen, and Jury, will be graciouſly pleaſed to order a particular inquiry to be made at Thomas Lamonby and John Foſter, what day of the week, and hour of the day; and alſo, what month and day of the month, in which the ſaid black mare, and two black galloways, was brought or conveyed into

to the ſtable aforeſaid. The black mare and the two black galloways, could not be brought or conveyed as aforeſaid, without Thomas Lamonby knowing of ſuch actions being acted. *Secondly*, This muſt be remembered, to inquire at Thomas Lamonby and John Foſter, who the perſon was that ſold the black mare and two black galloways, and alſo what they were ſold for.

Here I ſhall declare the truth and nothing but the truth, which are as follows. My ſon and me never ſpoke, nor had the leaſt connection relating the ſaid black mare and galloways, which John Foſter bought from George Bolton for 25 pounds, in the houſe and preſence of Thomas Lamonby, and his brother John Lamonby, betwixt one and two o'clock in the morning of the firſt day of July, 1790. *Thirdly*, That John Foſter muſt remember this, that near half an hour after he had bought the ſaid mare and galloways, that he and his ſervant man, Thomas Lamonby and his brother and George Bolton, aroſe from their ſeats, and went out of the houſe into the ſtable belonging to the ſaid Thomas Lamonby, and your humble petitioner and ſon aroſe alſo and retired out of the houſe upon the ſtreet, and there remained for a few minutes; during which time, my ſon and me obſerved John Foſter, his ſervant man, and George Bolton, take out of the ſaid ſtable the ſaid mare and galloways. John Foſter immediately mounted the mare, and the other two, each of them mounted a galloway, and rode up and down, as if they had been trying whether they were ſound or not. John Foſter ſaid, "Damn theſe horſes will all do very well." Theſe words being uttered, the ſaid mare and galloways was put back into the ſaid ſtable again, by George Bolton and Foſter's ſervant man; immediately after, they all walked into the houſe aforeſaid, and there they remained drinking for ſome time; being then within 20 minutes of three o'clock in the morning of the 1ſt day of July, 1790; at which time, the ſaid John Foſter and his man, John Lamonby and George Bolton

aroſe and retired out of the houſe, leaving Thomas Lamonby, my ſon and me ſitting together.

We at firſt could not conjecture their meaning for riſing ſo abruptly, but ſoon after their reaſon appeared very plain. In a few minutes they all came paſt the window of ſaid houſe, riding in great haſte upon ſaid mare and ſaid two galloways, which the ſaid Thomas Lamonby cannot here declare otherwiſe with a clear conſcience. Thomas Lamonby heard the noiſe of their riding, on which we all went to the door, and ſaw them all plainly with our eyes riding as aforeſaid, down the high road towards the city of Carliſle. Your Lordſhip's moſt humble petitioners, does here ſolemnly declare, that they never ſaw the ſaid black mare nor ſaid galloways ever after, nor had the leaſt knowledge what became of them. Therefore near to eight o'clock in the morning of the firſt day of July, 1790, me and my ſon retired out of ſaid houſe, along with Thomas Lamonby, and arrived at the houſe of John Foſter, where we were informed by a woman, who I ſuppoſed to be a neighbour, that John Foſter and a young man whom ſhe had often ſeen in company with him, were both up ſtairs in bed ſince five o'clock this morning; on which Thomas Lamonby knocked at the door, but no anſwer was made, which ſo enraged Thomas Lamonby, that he went to the window and knocked with ſuch force that the bow opened; he at the ſame time uttered theſe words, "Damn Foſter and Bolton both, I will now go in at the window to them, and I will awake them out of their ſleep."

Theſe words John Foſter certainly heard, becauſe he immediately opened the caſement of his upper chamber window, and deſired Thomas Lamonby to behave himſelf, and he would come down ſtairs and open the door to him; for, ſaid he, you will raiſe an uproar about my houſe, for which, you know, I am blamed already. He ſoon after opened the door, and immediately did order

order his ſervant man to bring water to waſh him and George Bolton. He told us he was going out upon ſome buſineſs, but would not be long. We, your Lordſhip's humble petitioners, do ſolemnly declare, that we knew nothing about what buſineſs G. Bolton had with John Foſter, nor did we ever ſee George Bolton again. In about 25 minutes after, Tho. Lamonby, my ſon, and me, retired from ſaid houſe, and arrived at the houſe of Mr Liddle, ſign of the ſhip, in Caldewgate, where we called for a quart of ale, which was not done when John Foſter arrived alſo. In this hour I received the aforeſaid eight pounds from John Foſter, which was juſtly due to me by him, by-reaſon of exchanging a black horſe for a brown mare with him at Stagſhaw-fair, in 1789. Immediately after I had received the eight pounds, Thomas Lamonby, ſaid to John Foſter, what money have you got to borrow in the town? he anſwered, and ſaid, I have plenty of money, and the world loves me; this being ſaid, John Foſter put his hand in his breeches pocket, and pulled out a handful of bank-notes, on which Tho. Lamonby, with his right hand, gripped the bank-notes in John Foſter's hand; in ſhort, they ſtrove with each other, though they never roſe from their ſeats, until they tore two of the bank-notes to pieces. Immediately after, Thomas Lamonby called John Foſter a great rogue, for which he ſhould be hanged long ſince; John Foſter anſwered, and ſaid, that if Thomas Lamonby eſcaped the gallows, it would be a great wonder to him, for you are, ſaid he, as great a rogue as I ever was: ſoon after all was made up, and they drank a health to each other, as if they had ſaid or done nothing at all. This and much more was ſaid and tranſacted, that are impoſſible for me to remember, in the preſence of ſaid Mr Liddle, and Mr William Bell, Thomas Lamonby's brother-in-law, and a butcher, to whom Mr Bell ſaid, he would let him have 50 pounds immediately, if he

had occaſion for it to buy goods; alſo John Robertſon, butcher in Stanwix, who ſwore moſt falſely and malicioufly againſt me and my ſon, laſt aſſizes for this county of Cumberland. Moreover, Mr Bell obſerving all their actions, ſaid, he would not be the man to quarrel with John Foſter or Thomas Lamonby on any occaſion whatſoever, for he was certain they both would be againſt him, and that the one would bail the other from goal, were the affair ever ſo dangerous.

This alſo I muſt remember, that John Foſter ſaid to your petitioner, that he and John Robertſon in Stanwix had a brown horſe betwixt them, and they could afford to ſell him very reaſonable; ſo your petitioner bought the horſe, without ſeeing him, for three pounds, and paid the money to John Robertſon of Stanwix; but on ſeeing the horſe, I found him to be glandered; which John Robertſon and John Foſter knew very well before they ſold him to me; on which I ſaid it was a roguiſh action for them to ſell any perſon a glandered horſe; they made anſwer, that it was by roguiſh actions they made their living. I immediately went to Jeremiah Whirlings, Eſq; in the ſaid city of Carliſle; I told him that I had bought a brown horſe from John Robertſon, butcher in Stanwix, for three pounds, but that the horſe was glandered, (I cannot here remember, whether I mentioned John Foſter or not; but it is certain he was conjunct with John Robertſon in ſelling the horſe to me) and for that reaſon I wanted him to grant me a warrant againſt John Robertſon, butcher in Stanwix, in regard to the ſaid glandered horſe. He told me, he could not grant a warrant againſt the ſaid John Robertſon, on account that Stanwix did not belong to the city of Carliſle. His worſhip deſired me to remain at the door until he would acquaint a gentleman, who was a Juſtice of the Peace, and at that time in his houſe. He returned, and told me, that the other Juſtice and him had conſulted on the matter, and

that

that they both believed I would get no good, but evil, of ſuch a man as what John Robertſon in the Stanwix was; he ſaid, you may go to the Rev. Henry Shaw, Clerk, and I am very ſure he will do you juſtice. His worſhip ſaid, he remembered a trial ſome years ago, at the aſſizes, relating a glandered horſe; and, to the beſt of his knowledge, the Judge ordered the man that ſold the horſe, to take the horſe again, and return the money to the other man. I hope his worſhip will be moſt graciouſly pleaſed, to declare this the truth, as has been mentioned to your Lordſhip, Gentlemen, and Jury. Moreover, your Lordſhip, Gentlemen, and Jury, will be pleaſed, in the name of the great and juſt God, to conſider this as follows. If your moſt humble petitioners, *Robert Thompſon* and *Son*, had been guilty of committing ſuch crimes as they here ſtand charged with, they certainly would never have preſumed to go to Jeremiah Whirlings, Eſq; and deſire the favour of him to grant a warrant againſt John Robertſon in Stanwix, and John Foſter, horſe-dealer, relating the ſaid glandered horſe.

Therefore, before I withdraw my pen from giving an account of all the actions of John Foſter, I muſt here mention, that on the 7th day of Aug. 1790, my ſon and me arrived at the goal in Carliſle; near to ſeven o'clock in the evening of the ſame day, John Foſter came into the ſaid goal-yard, amongſt the people, to view my ſon and me, but he ſaid nothing to us; alſo, on the morning of the 8th day, near to ten o'clock in the forenoon, he returned into the goal yard again, but retired without ſpeaking to us; we never ſaw John Foſter for a long time after, which plainly ſhews that John Foſter had no bill of indictment againſt us at all, otherwiſe he would certainly have ſpoke to us, when in the goal-yard on the two days aforeſaid, relating to this crime, which my ſon and me doth here ſtand moſt falſely charged with. I do alſo ſincerely believe, that

Mr

Mr Mullinder, goaler, can teſtify the truth, if that he will declare it, that John Foſter never ſpoke to him concerning this crime, for which we now ſtand before your Lordſhip maliciouſly charged with. There was a man came into the goal-yard, on the 13th day of April, 1791, which informed your humble petitioners, for a truth, that John Foſter was obliged to deliver to the proper owner, the ſaid black mare, and ſaid two black galloways; begging, at the ſame time, that he would not inform any Juſtice of the Peace.

The man to whom the ſaid black mare and two black galloways was delivered to, by John Foſter, ſhould be ſtrictly examined into, as, it is to be hoped, he will tell the truth, and nothing but the truth, concerning the ſame, as he has a ſoul to be ſaved; and knows not how ſoon he, and all theſe walſe witneſſes, may be brought to judgment, before that righteous One who cannot err. For this reaſon, I would have them remember, that it is not in the power of mortal man, whoſe breath, ſaith Job, is in their noſtrils, to command the ſouls to return again into the bodies of thoſe whom they have murdered for the reward allowed by act of parliament, which reward will be of no ſervice to them, at that dreadful day of the great aſſizes, in regard to the ſaving of their ſouls from that deluding beaſt, the devil. Theſe worldly gains, which they have this day luſted after, are then departed from them, and they ſhall find them no more at all; which words will be found in Rev. xviii. 14. It is the price of innocent blood; therefore truth, with great obedience, doth here appeal to their conſciences, to know whether they are cloathed with a breaſt-plate, and an helmet of ſalvation; which are the robes of righteouſneſs, with which the great and juſt God cloathed his people, to enable them to fight that great and terrible battle, at the hour and departure of the ſoul from the body at death, which ſhall be againſt the devil, the fleſh, and the world, which their poor ſouls has luſted after.

Oh

Oh therefore! let all the above be taken into a right and merciful conſideration; leſt, peradventure, it be a warning from the great and juſt God, to all the inhabitants of the whole earth; ſo that they may take a ſpecial care of their poor ſouls, leſt they defile their hands with theſe falſe witneſſes, in ſhedding innocent blood in the midſt of this city; which words will be found in Ezekiel chap xxii. and ver. 12.

Your Lordſhip and Gentlemen, will be moſt graciouſly pleaſed, through your great humanity, goodneſs, and mercy, towards your moſt humble petitioners, to remember as follows, and let no falſe ſpeeches ariſe, to take place in your hearts againſt me and my ſon; by reaſon, if our innocent blood be ſhed in the midſt of this city, by falſehood, our blood will defile the city, from which it cannot be cleanſed again ——I ſhall conclude and leave this, from the beginning to the end, to your Lordſhip, Gentlemen, and Jury's right and merciful conſideration,

And I ever will remain,

Your Lordſhip's, Gentlemen, and Jury's

Moſt obedient, and ſincere well-wiſher,

CARLISLE GOAL, *Aug.* 26, 1791. } ROBERT THOMPSON.

His

His Behaviour after Condemnation in the Cell.

JOHN FEARON, under ſentence of death for murder, confined in the cell along with him, hanged himſelf in his garters the night previous to his execution; he acknowledged that he knew that he was hanging himſelf, but he was ſo diſordered in his own mind, he ſcarcely knew what he was doing, and had a great mind to commit the ſame crime himſelf. And to ſhew the depravity of his heart, he abſolutely ſtole from Fearon's pocket, when he was hanging, the ſilk handkerchief that he wore about his neck, and gave it to his wife the firſt time he had an opportunity.

After his condemnation he was attended by ſeveral clergymen, who did all that lay in their power to enforce upon him the perilous ſituation he was in; endeavouring much to make him prepare for his latter end; but their friendly admonitions ſeemed to have no effect upon him: He ſeemed hardened to all kind of religion, ſaying that he knew more than what they could tell him, and wanted none of their company.

He ſtill had a notion that he would not ſuffer death; but what he built his hopes upon, his fellow-priſoners were at a loſs to know, till about three nights before his execution there was an attempt made to break into the goal; he acknowledged it was his two ſons and a party that they were connected with, that made the attempt in order to reſcue him; but finding that he was locked down in the cell, and day light beginning to appear, they were obliged to deſiſt.

On the Morning of his Execution he addreſſed his Wife as follows, in the Preſence of his Fellow-Priſoners.

MY dear wife, this is the laſt legacy that I have to leave you, you know that I have been a very unrighteous liver, and my actions has been diſpleaſing to God, and hurtful to man; I am this day to be made a public ſpectacle to the world, and although my body die, I hope God will have mercy on my never-dying ſoul. I have been a ſinner, and that a great one, and have been guilty of many fellonies; but there are ſome that touches me harder than others: I much lament the wronging of Mr Fenwick of Erſdon, as he was always a friend and benefactor.

At the place of execution I dont mean to give much ſatisfaction to the public by making an open confeſſion there, I mean to die in peace with all men. My advice to you is, to go to ſome place where you are not known, and there ſpend the remainder of your days; and I hope that you will exhort my ſon Thomas and George to leave off that which we practiſed too long, and has now brought me to this untimely end.

I own the pulling down my houſe at Yellowly was the firſt time that I left you, and I believe that you ſuffered much; but I hope you will now forgive me for my cruelties to you, and if it had pleaſed God to prolong my days, I think I ſhould have led my life in a different manner; but as it has pleaſed the Almighty to end my unhappy life, I am content.

I hope that you will warn John Cowan to leave off his bad ways; likewiſe Buſhby, and get three pounds from him, as I never got any of that horſe's price that

we ſtole from Leinceſter, in the county of Durham: if he does not pay you, tell him that you will inform the proprietor, which will induce him to pay it. I hope you will, as I ſaid before, go to ſome place and end your life in the fear of God.

At the place of execution he behaved with the greateſt fortitude, and ſeemed, with ſome fervency, to join in prayer with the clergyman that attended him. He took leave of his wife and daughter at the ſaid place, in the moſt affecting manner, which drew tears from many of the ſpectators.

FINIS.

22 JY 69